



Written By the Random Kiddos.



Write a Book
in a Day



THE KIDS'
CANCER
PROJECT

Science. Solutions. Survival.

PARAMETERS FORM

TEAM DETAILS

STATE: WA
DIVISION: Middle School
SCHOOL/GROUP: Kalamunda Senior High School (KALAMUNDA)
TEAM NAME: Kalamunda 2
TEAM ID: 1218

PARAMETERS AND RANDOM WORDS

Parameters

Primary character 1 Comedian
Primary character 2 Pop star
Non-human character Camera
Setting Circus
Issue Hidden treasure

Random words

Tiptoe
Fresh
Community
Delight
Bruised

INSTRUCTIONS

- Start at 8am
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above), and in bold type
 - with some identifiable **Australian content** (in theme or setting or characters, etc)
 - keeping within the allowed word count (remember every word on every page counts)!
 - include this parameters form in your book **immediately after the front cover**
- Remember: **Every** word on **every** page counts. This includes your front cover, back cover, blurb, acknowledgements and copyright form.
- **Be sure to give yourself enough time to submit your book and complete the following checklist before 9pm.**

Log on to the Team Coordinator Portal to:

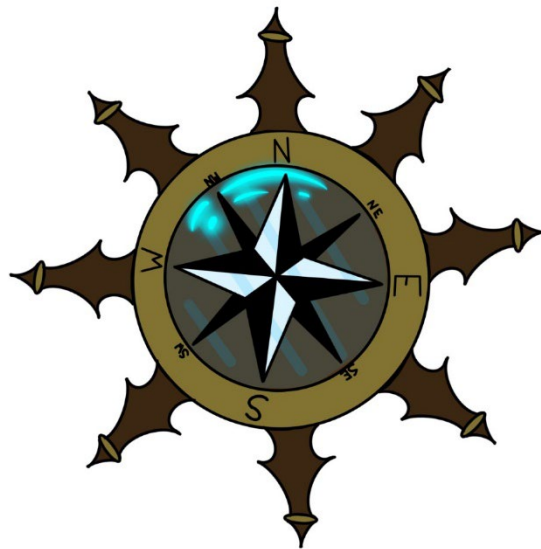
- ☐ Check the spelling of your team name and team members' names (how these are spelt on submission will be how they are displayed on certificates)
- ☐ Complete the Declaration
- ☐ Submit your finished book in **both** PDF and plain text format by 9pm

This Book was created, written and illustrated by:

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Prologue

The gravel shuffled as the children walked across the path. A small, sturdy, wooden house looms over the surrounding emptiness of the red desert. A ring from the doorbell awakes the metallic door as it swings open to reveal a very old, fragile figure.

“Ah, children. Please, come inside. I was just about to start without you!” The old man greets you with a warm aura. The insides appear ancient, almost from different eras, at the end of their lifecycle. The man brushes what seems like dust off the soft cushions on the couch.



“Take a seat, as I’ll start at the very beginning.” He utters before turning to see a shadow in the hallway, as if it had awakened a lost memory, he lurches up, dropping the glass of water he was holding, shattering across the floor.

“There you are! I have finally found you, after all this time! Let’s continue this story together, the travelling circus, right?” The silhouette spoke as they emerged from the shadows, revealing someone Jack has been long waiting for.

“Right, you certainly took your time, pardon the mess, join us, would you?” Jack says as they all take a seat around the coffee table, the lady smirks, muttering to herself

“Still the same Jack I knew long ago.”

“Where was I? Right, it started when I got assigned to this mission...”

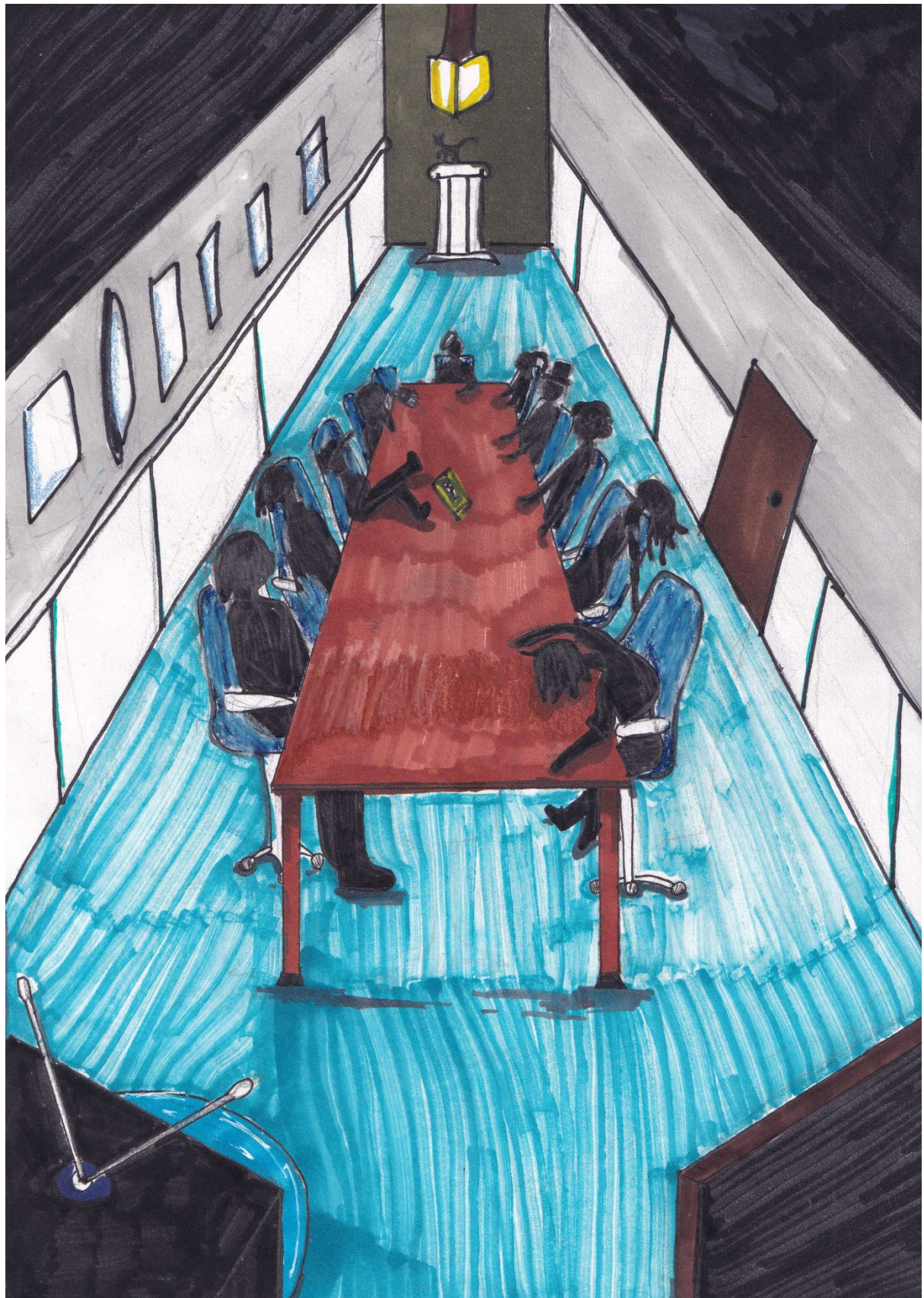
Chapter 1 - The Briefing

“Alright soldiers, this is your mission. Steal and destroy classified files from showgrounds Toowoomba,” announced the General as he entered the briefing room.

The wallpaper of the hotel walls crumbled as his heavy boots hit the floor and echoed. The smell of disinfectant mixed with that of sweaty men made Jack sick. Sir General the General sat at the end of the long table hardened by time and missions, facing all the men including Jack. One of the best agents at the table.

“This is one of the most important missions anyone here has ever done in the total history of this agency.” He paused for total silence.

“Borowski you’re going solo for this mission, I’ll be in the control room every night at 1800 sharp and I want you to brief me on all the information you have composed over the day. Dismissed!” Yelled the general, promptly exiting the room flanked by his bodyguards. Jack nodded and left the briefing room, heading straight to the **community** barracks on the opposite side of the hotel to pack his bags. Jack changed from his uniform into an old red and black flannel top, jeans, elastic side boots and tie. He had to wait until nightfall before he was able to leave the hotel, such security measures were vital – albeit over the top





Chapter 2 - Introductions

Jack woke up at the crack of dawn, his job was assigned, his alibi was covered and he had a sole goal, to arrive at a random circus in the middle of nowhere and

He straightened his tie, *the first rule; Always look sharp and **Fresh** on the job, no matter how early.* x

Jack polished his medals displayed in his suitcase, adjusted his shirt and jeans and started his journey.

While the trip was long, he arrived at the circus roughly around midday. Jack began to consider the situation in front of him. He had two questions. Firstly; why was there a circus in the middle of nowhere? Secondly; where is everyone? While the first question was still being answered, Jack saw a group of what seemed like cosplayers, dressed up from all different eras, prehistoric, Roman, both world wars... just to name a few. As he walked closer to the circus he was engulfed by a strange bubble-like forcefield field. An odd sensation shook his body, almost indescribable.

“Just another day in Toowoomba” Jack snickered. As he began to walk again, a bright, cleanly dressed lady ran over, almost like she was being chased. She nearly knocked him over.

"Hey! Where are we?" She panted, an expression of exhaustion painted on her face.

"I was about to ask you the same thing!" He yelled surprisingly. The girl caught her breath.

"I'm Jami, Lead singer of the Cinema Girls, ever heard of us?"

"No, but nice meeting you, I'm Jack, the comedian for tonight's show!" He lied, *all part of the mission*. He watched her carefully, everything from her posture, to her gaze, was focused elsewhere. Jack could tell she was hiding something.

"What were you running from?" Jack questioned, extremely confused.

"Here, come with me" Jami ignored the question and swept Jack up. The pair began to run.



Chapter 3 - The Campfire

As the day came to an end, the pair started on the bonfire.

"So where are you from Jacko?" asked Jamie as she prodded the flames with a stick.

"Geelong" Jack mumbled so that Jami couldn't hear what he said. *Rule 3, never tell ANYONE who you really are or where you come from.* He got up and turned to leave for a nearby patch of trees, suddenly realising that he must get in contact with Sir General ASAP. He looked down at his watch and it showed 10 minutes to 6pm.



"I have to leave for a sec, I'll see you at the bonfire tonight. I have something very important to attend to." Jack dropped the twigs he was carrying, on the bonfire and hurried back to the circus. Jami stares puzzled before returning back to the task.

"Agent Borowski, tell me, how is the mission going? Is there any important information from your investigation?" Sir General General asked.

"Not at this moment Sir, I might collect more information at the bonfire tonight, if I do, I will call you as soon as possible Sir."

"Good, I know you'll get this job done that's why I chose you for this job, you're one of my best agents, I'm counting on you."

"Thank you Sir, I won't let you down."

As the night went on, Jack searched the whole circus top to bottom for the documents and found: nothing. *Wherever the documents are, it must be pretty good.*

When Jack got back to the campfire he noticed something about Jami, she had the same compass as he did. The one that his family had passed down to him. His dad gave it to him when he was just a lad.

"Where did you get that?" Jack was interested to hear her answer, "Oh, this? My mother gave it to me for my 14th birthday. It's a family heirloom. It was my great Grandfathers and his Father gave it to him"

"Would you happen to know what his name was, your Great Great Grandfather?"

"Um, yeah, his name was Jack Borowski." After a long pause Jack stuttered.

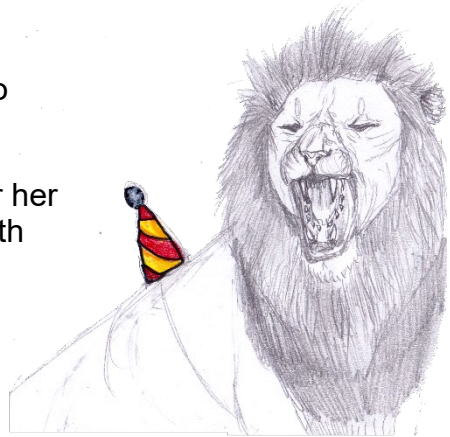
"Th-that's my name!" Jami looks at him for a long time and sighs,

"The real reason I am here is because I'm from the future. There is this camera, I need it to get back home - To the year 2222" Jack thought for a minute before he decided to tell her. *I'm breaking all the rules, but she is family. She has to know.*

"I need something too." Sighed Jack leaning towards the fire.

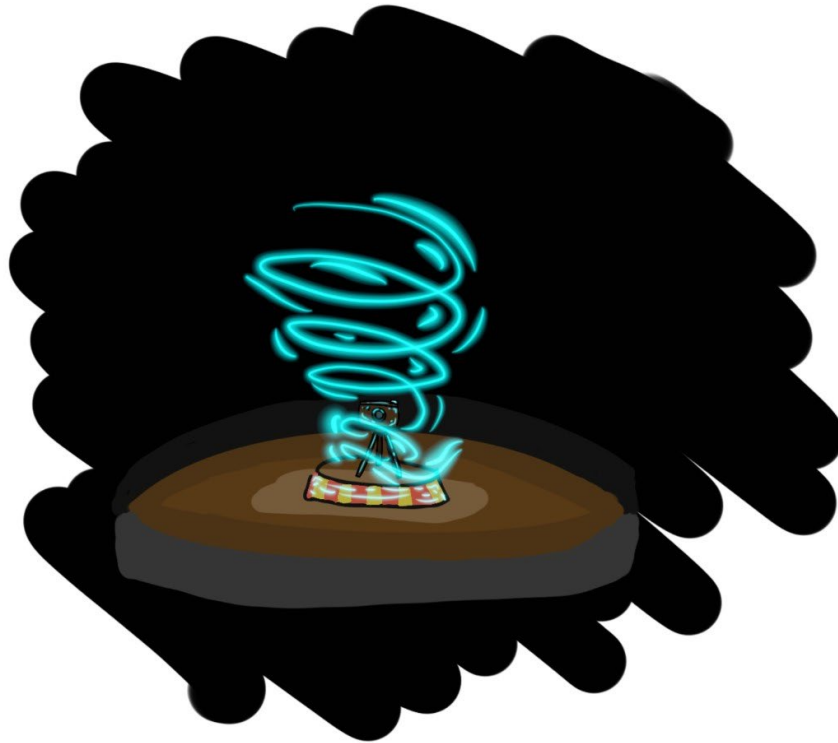
"I'm not really a comedian, I'm a federal agent looking for important documents. It has information that the government needs and if any other countries get it, then we risk a great war. I think that they could be on that camera you are talking about. So we should figure out how we can work together to get what we both want from the camera."

"When I first landed with the camera, I lost contact with it. It seemed to have a few new images which were not there before, and I had more ...pressing matters so I didn't see them." And with this new information, the two of them set off to find the camera and retrieve the information.



Chapter 4 - Alone in the darkness

I stand alone on my pedestal. The room lit only by a dim blue glow radiating off my back. I don't know how long I've been here or how long I will remain, it could be days, weeks, months even. I wish I could leave this place, to get out of this responsibility and sleep. But I must stay awake. I keep this circus standing and stable. I only wish for a small rest. If I could only sleep for a few minutes; a short snooze, it should be okay. My eyes close, willing me to sleep. As I drift into dreams, I see it. The walls glitching as they crumble to the ground, the Hitch fading in and out of their times, the illusion breaking as times collide. I jolt awake. Panic shooting through my lens. My shutters click faster and faster blurring my vision, I wobble on my pedestal, my stand landing dangerously close to the edge, almost tipping me off and ruining it all. I feel the room closing in around me as I try and calm down enough to look around. After a while my shutter stops clicking quite so fast and I can see that everything looks to be alright, but I know what could happen if I let myself drift off again.



Chapter 5 - The Hitch Encounter

"Where is everyone?" Jack wondered as he walked with Jami towards the tent.

The eerie silence lingered, only to be broken by the occasional gust of wind.

"I- I've found them..." Jami stuttered, pointing to a strange group of people in front of the main tent.

A strange man pointed to a spot on the horizon and then at himself, then again. Repeating the same movement over and over, with the other people doing similar actions. Puzzled, Jack and Jami walked closer.

"It's like they're... glitching? We should call them 'the glitch'" suggested Jami.

"Nah.... That's a bit... generic? How about... 'Hitch'? Human glitch?" Replied Jack.

"That's basically my idea! I'm not using that name!" Snapped Jami, as the strange man grabbed her shoulder. "That b- That Hitch!" Scoffed Jami, shoving them off from her, leaving them **bruised**.

The rest of the Hitch seemed offended by this, momentarily pausing to turn their heads in a synchronised disgust, before returning to their looped actions.

"You used my name for them!" blurted Jack after walking past the crowd of the Hitch.

"Get over yourself." Jami retorted.

Jack noticed a break in the tent's curtain, and stepped towards it.

"I think it's in here." Jami professed.



Chapter 6 - Never let your guard down

Jack opened the sheet, and carefully observed his surroundings. *Rule 2; never let your guard down, even the smallest things can be important.*

"Alright, come in, there's no Hitch in here...**tiptoe** slowly" Jack instructed quietly. Jami tiptoed with him inside the main tent. A shaft of ominous blue light emanated from the centre of the room, barely illuminating the strange object it was spreading out from. Jack smirked, "hey, what did the sushi say to the bee," He asked,

"Jack! Now is not the time!" Jami protested before Jack interrupted;

"Wasabi!" he burst, "Get it?" he giggled, Jami said nothing. Jack felt the short wall next to the curtain and felt a switch, promptly flipping it. Blinding light engulfed the darkness and revealed the object.

"There it is! There he is!" Jami exclaimed as she sprinted to the strange object. Jack turned towards Jami, and the object caught his eye. It was a camera, but it didn't resemble any modern camera, it looked nearly a century old.

"Is that the camera? Why does it look so old?" Jack sighed.

"It's not just an 'old camera' , it's my key out of here!" Jami explained with delight.

"If you say so!" Jack replied sarcastically as he reached for the camera. A shriek burst from it.

"What was that!?" Jack exclaimed as he jumped back several feet.

"It was the camera, he says 'don't touch me', I'll have to interpret him since you don't... understand..." She trailed off. The camera released a few strange and rhythmic chirps, which Jami promptly translated.

"He says that it's dangerous to touch him. He's the one holding this entire place together. If he gets distracted, and can't hold the time field for just a second, everything will start to fall apart." Jack stood gobsmacked and squeaked a few words.

"It can speak?!" Jack blurted.

"The technology in your time doesn't?" Jami questioned rather condescendingly.

"And he's not just 'IT'... His name is Sheldon." Jami corrected.

Jack was dumbfounded and stayed quiet. Jami stood in front of Sheldon and spoke the same strange rhythmic chirps as before.

"I'm asking him how he got here," Jami explained. Jack nodded his head, not understanding a word.

"I don't entirely remember how I got here, all I remember is Jami dropping me on the ground and then I got damaged. I fell through time into the centre of this room but the time crystal inside me cracked in the process. That means everything in its radius is trapped in a broken timeline. If I stop holding this place together everything here will be reset, and I will be destroyed." Jami translated.

"Hang on, in every explosive, every weapon, every device of mass destruction there is always an abort button, always something to deactivate it so accidents don't happen. Is there something like that for you?" Jack questioned. Sheldon paused for a moment and chirped to Jami.

"Well, first of all I'm not some 'weapon of mass destruction', and secondly, yes there is a failsafe... only it broke off when I came here, and I don't know where it landed... it is extremely important, if I can't stabilise the field with the failsafe, this entire timeline will be wiped from existence." Jami translated. Jack's mind raced for any sign of the failsafe. Jack remembered the strange group of Hitch surrounding that area when they arrived. Was it the failsafe they were surrounding?

Chapter 7 - Failsafe Shot

The circus shook violently as rubble fell from above. Sheldon was about to fall asleep. "Don't sleep yet!" Jami shouted. The main tent stopped rumbling, and the rubble rose back up and resumed its former positions. Sheldon chirped weakly. "I'm

not going to be able to go on for much longer, you need to find the failsafe!" Jami translated.

"I think I know where it is," Jack announced. "Remember when those Hitch were surrounding something when I came in? I think that's where the failsafe is!" Jack continued.

"It's a shot in the dark, but you might be right." Jami agreed. Jack and Jami ran out of the tent. The Hitch outside had returned and was ready for more trouble. Jami threw a punch at the Hitch dressed in 18th century garb as Jack took out the few cavemen blocking the path. The Hitches' bodies began to glitch, many had completely disappeared while the others pounced for Jack and Jami. In a sudden, they ran into the other chamber and frantically ran for the crowd.

"There! On the mini stage!" Jack shouted. In the middle of the mob lay a small dish with a lightbulb. Jami dove into the crowd head-first, forcing many Hitch away. The room began to rumble again.

"Jami! Sheldon's slipping again!" Jack shouted as he fought through the crowd.

"Got it!" Jami exclaimed as she clasped the dish. The tent was falling apart, the Hitch were manic, and pieces of the ground began to rise. They ran into the main tent, trailed by dozens of Hitch. They were surrounded by the swarm. Jami panicked and forced the failsafe into Jack's hands.

"Go! Put the failsafe on Sheldon!" Jami instructed as she shoved Jack up and over the swarm before he had a chance to protest. He knew what he had to do. Jack sprinted towards Sheldon, dish in hand, and shoved the failsafe onto him. The Hitch froze and Sheldon began screeching.

Chapter 8 - Time crystal Lost

The screeching stopped. "What is happening? Why'd it stop!?" Jack screamed.

"The time crystal is cracked, he can't activate the fail safe himself, and he will be destroyed if we activate it." Explosions ricocheted around the room. Everywhere but around Sheldon. Hitch fell over and screeched. Pain evident in their voices.

"Quick! In here" Jack pointed to a room under the stage.

"What about Sheldon?" Jami shouted.

"Would you rather die?" Jack yelled. Nodding towards the stage. "You coming?" Looking at the pure chaos, Jack chased after Jami, almost tripping over the stage steps.

"This reminds me of the time a cheese factory exploded in France.... Da Brie is everywhere"

“Get it? hahahaha” laughing like a maniac Jack crawled into the space after Jami. Tripping over a hitch’s foot in the process.

“Sorry, not sorry, that was the worst joke ever.” She glared at him angrily and then laughed. The darkness enveloped them as they waited for the boom of the explosions to cease. Lying in shadow, they waited. Hearing footsteps on the stage above. They both froze, they shared a look, Hitch. Fear flowed through their bodies as they pressed their hands to their mouths. Spotting light on the other side of the tunnel, Jami had an epiphany.

“Wait, there is a way out!” Whispered Jami.

“What?” whispered Jack back, Jami pointed to the light. Oh Jack understood now. Jami and Jack crawled to the other side.

“AHHH spider web.”

“Shut up or the.....” footsteps echoed at the entrance to the tunnel. “...Hitch will come!”

“MOVE!” Shouted Jack. Once out of the tunnel Jack waited for Jami and then grabbed her arm pulling her arm towards the exit. Hitch followed screeching in many languages they couldn’t understand. As they crossed they reached the boundary, Jami stopped running. She looked at Jack (who was on the other side), the sadness in her whole body.

“It’s me! I am the reason they are not disappearing.”

“WHAT DO YOU MEAN?” shouted Jack in distraught.

“I need to go back to Sheldon; I need him to end this!” Jami stated.

“No, I will not let you do this!”

“This isn’t about you! If you come with me, you will be erased along with everything else here! I will exist again in the future, you won’t!” Jami screamed. Jack grabbed her wrist, but she twisted out of his grip, again pushing him through the boundary. Her hair whipped around as she ran back into the tent.

Chapter 9 - Strayed and Forgotten

A deafening rumble erupted from the bubble. Standing outside the largest tent. Rustle of plants and hot wind burning the back of his neck. Jack took a step forward. The sounds that heard from the outside were deafening. Jack covered his ears. The Hitch were disappearing slowly, one by one. Screams of agony echoing off the walls. Jack ran towards Jami, hands tightly pressed to his ears. Jami turned around, eyes glassy, glowing ever brightly more. Although Jack's eyes were burning, he didn't want to miss her. She held out her hand. Gulping back a silent tear, Jack grabbed it.



"I will see you again...Goodbye Jack..." Jami faded to nothing, her compass falling onto the ground.

"Nooooooo!" Jack sobbed, falling onto the dusty, hot ground, cradling the compass in his hands. Silence. Swarmed around Jack. Enveloped him. All the Hitch had disappeared, the final scream rattling in his mind. The tent had disappeared too, into nothing. Tears rolled down his face and he realised for the first time he was truly alone. No general, no one. His tears were the only water on the parched ground. He looked around. After a few minutes of self pity. A strength began blossoming in his heart.



"I will find her," Jack vowed. Then he whispered to himself; "I must". He tenderly placed the compass into his jean pocket, wiping away a stray tear.

"There was no way that I'm going to inform the General about the success of his mission". He spat with disgust. *If it weren't for the stupid mission, she would still be here... Although I guess that 'she isn't supposed to be here'. Ughh stupid general! He knew all along! He can't do this to me!* Anger and despair rippled through him. He slumped to his knees. Skin touching the red desert sand, fists sinking in despair. The road and back to the city.

Chapter 10 - Door Closed

"So, that's the story of the Travelling circus." Finished Jack. The children applauded the man, believing all it a story. His eyes shining as he looked over to the woman standing in the corner.

"But... how did you get here?!" asked Jami, pulling her yellow dress closer to her body, a chill passing through.

"Well, after I got back to the city, I spent years trying to replicate Sheldon. All just to see you again. I wanted to stay with you after the events of the circus. I wanted to work together, join the agency, for everything that you had helped me with. I felt that was the least I could do. So that's what I did. I walked, and walked even further than ever before, the agency had ditched me, I couldn't believe you would do the same as well. I spent years, Years Jami, I had so much time to think about the events of the past. I have something you might remember, something that has held me together for all of these years." As he finished his monologue, He pulled out something out of his back pocket. It was the compass, after all of these years, still in mint condition, just the way that they found it.

"I want you to keep this, Jami, For old times sake." Jami, with tears in her eyes, walked up to Jack, received the heirloom and gave him a heartwarming hug.

"Hey Jami, Now that I've finally found you," he whispered as the little kids leaned closer, hanging on every word. "I'm finally at peas"

Jack broke into hysterical laughter as the whole group just glared at him and Jami sighed.

"Well, Thank you. I'm glad we can celebrate and cherish the memories of the travelling circus, not just together, but with the next generations." Jake finished holding back giggles. A small, sturdy, wooden house looms over the surrounding emptiness of the red desert. And the metallic door swings to a close.

THE END



In this 2022 bestseller, the unlikely duo of Jack and the lead singer of a famous girl-band must work together at the current location of a travelling circus to vanquish a threat to time and space as we know it. Will they manage to banish Sheldon, destroy the documents and fix the time continuum? Only time will tell! With Dad jokes, Time travel, and a talking camera, what more could you want?

Critical Acclaim:

Hilarious at the perfect times, honestly such a good read! - 59publishings.com

(10/10) One of the books of all time - Dymock's

(5/5) Its Circusing time! - Taylor Swift

